

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

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O 031715Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2213

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0851

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, AG

SUBJECT: CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE - ALGERIAN DELEGATION

REFS: (A) STATE 072758 (B) ALGIERS 0846 (C) ALGIERS 0755

1. ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED APRIL 3 TO INFORM EMBASSY
ON ALGERIAN DELEGATION TO PARIS PREPCON MEETING APRIL 7.

2. DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF:

MESSAOUD AIT CHAALAL - ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM
AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

SID AHMED GHOZALI - PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
SONATRACH.

BACHIR OULD ROUIS - DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY.

MOHAMED LIASSINE - PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
NATIONAL STEEL COMPANY.

NORDINE AIT-LAOUSSINE - VICE PRESIDENT OF SONATRACH.

MEKARBA - DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY AT SONATRACH.

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PLUS 5 OR 6 EXPERTS.

3. THIS DELEGATION IS VERY CAPABLE GROUP WHICH HAS BEEN GOING TO MOST OF OPEC MEETINGS FOR ALGERIANS. THIS IS SAME TEAM THAT BACKS UP ABDESSELAM AT OIL MEETINGS EXCEPT THIS IS NOT MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE.

4. ALGERIAN DELEGATION IS READY TO MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON, AND FOR PLANNING PURPOSES EMBASSY AGREED ON MEETING AT U.S. MISSION TO THE OECD AT 19 RUE DE FRANQUEVILLE AT 11:00 AM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 1975. IF THIS NOT ACCEPTABLE, PLEASE CABLE BACK IMMEDIATELY PREFERABLE HOUR AND LOCATION. IN ANY CASE, PLEASE CONFIRM.

5. DOES DEPT. WANT ECON/OFFICER HIGGINSON FOR LIAISON WORK WITH ALGERIANS AS SUGGESTED REFTEL C?

6. (A) AIT CHAALAL IS MEDICAL DOCTOR WHO WAS ACTIVE IN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. HE IS APPROACHABLE AND REASONABLY FRIENDLY. WE HAD SOME CONTACT WITH HIM IN PERIOD BEFORE INDEPENDENCE WHEN HE WAS UNOFFICIAL ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON.

(B) GHOZALI SPEAKS FAIR ENGLISH AND IS USED TO LONG NEGOTIATIONS WITH AMERICAN OIL AND GAS COMPANIES. HE IS WELL LIKED BY AMERICANS, BUT FEW PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY HAVE PUT ANYTHING OVER ON HIM.

(C) OULD ROUIS IS A NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATED ALGERIAN WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY. SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH.

(D) AIT LAOUSSINE IS MICHIGAN EDUCATED AND UNTIL RECENTLY WAS CHIEF ALGERIAN NEGOTIATOR WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES. HE IS VERY HIGHLY RESPECTED. HE SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH AND HAS AMERICAN WIFE.

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(EL LIASSINE IS OLDER AND NOT SO AMERICAN ORIENTATED BUT HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY ACCOMMODATING IN FEW EMBASSY DEALINGS WITH HIM. THOUGH NOT IN A NATURAL POSITION TO WORK ON OIL QUESTIONS, HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN MOST RECENT DELEGATIONS AND HOLDS POSITION OF ESTIME IN MINISTER ABDESSELAM'S EYES.

(F) MEKARBA IS NOT KNOWN WELL TO EMBASSY, BUT HE
HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY NEGOTIATIONS FOR
SONATRACH CAPITAL PROJECTS WITH AMERICAN FIRMS.
HIS REPUTATION IS NOT AS CLEAR AS OTHERS, BUT HE IS
GOOD AT STALLING.PARKER

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